

Cotswolds LEADER Priority 6

Support for increasing forestry productivity



The maximum grant that Cotswolds LAG will offer is £50,000 and the minimum £5,000. The maximum grant rate is capped at 40% of the eligible project costs.

Forestry is making an increasing contribution to rural growth - it is helping to diversify the farm economy and reduce the carbon footprint of local communities. More than 80% of England's woods are privately owned. Funding under LEADER will aim to deliver permanent new supply chains and jobs that, at the same time, restore regular management to local woods and encourage a greater degree of added value to the timber output.

Applications for grants could include the following, which are given as examples:

- Winches and associated equipment for extraction (including skyliners)
- Trailers designed specifically for hauling timber or logs
- Tractor or trailer mounted Cranes designed for extracting timber from woodland
- Wood chippers
- Trommel or other types of chip-screening equipment
- Firewood processors
- Mobile saw bench or mobile saw mill
- Timber processor and harvesting heads for primary processing of felled trees *
- Forwarders (log-moving vehicles) *
- Forest harvesters *
- Skidders – these must be used in line with UK Forestry standards *
- Tractor-mounted forestry grabs or tongs *
- Log decks
- Forestry tractors (Forestry guarding must be factory fitted and meet CE standards.) *
- Racks
- Log conveyors
- Log lifters
- Bagging shoots
- Firewood and wood splitters
- Kindling machines
- Bagging equipment associated with firewood processors
- Covered areas for processing, storing and seasoning; including solar kilns
- Hard standing for processing, storing and seasoning
- Moisture meters
- Force drying systems

* these items must meet all Health and Safety Executive guidelines on rollover, operator and falling objects protection to be eligible

Refer to the Cotswolds LEADER Handbook for more details on eligible costs and the Application Process available at www.cotswoldsleader.org.uk

or speak to James Webb, Programme Manager 01451 862033

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Who can apply

- Owners or tenants of private forestry holdings
- Micro, small and medium-sized forestry contracting businesses.

What is eligible

- investments in machinery and equipment to help the production, extraction, mobilising, processing and marketing of timber and non-timber forest products;
- the processing, mobilising and marketing of products for new forestry technologies;
- investments that enhance forestry potential or add value to forest products by processing, mobilising or marketing;
- the costs of developing wood-fuel supply chains;
- transportation of wood within a forest by specialised forestry equipment, excluding standard transport activities.

What isn't covered

In addition to the list of costs which can't be claimed on pages 5 and 6 of the Cotswolds LEADER Handbook the following costs are not eligible under this priority:

- large-scale or industrial processing undertaken by static machinery with an annual processing capacity that is more than 10,000m³;
- hand tools (including chain saws, strimmers and brush cutters) and consumables;
- investments in woodland creation or the management of woodland itself;
- the preparation of woodland management plans;
- personal protective clothing;
- Standard or small scale tractors;
- All-terrain vehicles;
- Tipping trailers;
- Flat bed trailers;
- Box trailers;
- Wood-fired boilers;

Please note that woodland owners will need to submit a woodland management plan with their application.